

**WILLIAMSBURG PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002**

The regular monthly meeting of the Williamsburg Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2002, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Stryker Building.

CALL TO ORDER and ATTENDANCE

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order. Present in addition to Mrs. Davis were Commissioners Smith, Young, Freiling, Scruggs, Hertzler, and Friend. Also present were Planning Director Nester, Zoning Administrator Murphy, City Attorney Phillips and Secretary Scott.

MINUTES

Mr. Scruggs moved that the minutes of the February 20 regular meeting be approved as submitted. Mr. Freiling seconded the motion, which carried by roll call vote of 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PCR #03-02: Request of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to expand the boundary of the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area CW zoning district by rezoning approximately 128 acres to the **CW District**. Four parcels are proposed to be rezoned: **Parcel A** – rezone approximately 2.554 acres on the east side of Nassau Street north of Court Street from Museum Support District MS to Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area; **Parcel B** – rezone approximately 1.22 acres between the Williamsburg Inn parking lot and Providence Hall Lane from Museum Support District MS to Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area; **Parcel C** - rezone approximately 120.036 acres, including Bassett Hall and its surroundings, the York Street pastures, a strip of green space north and east of Lafayette Street and the Coke Garrett Pastures from Single Family Dwelling District RS-1, Single Family Dwelling District RS-2 and Museum Support District to Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area CW; and **Parcel D** – rezone approximately 3.67 acres within the block bounded by Nassau Street, Prince George Street, North Henry Street and Scotland Street from Downtown Residential District RDT to Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area CW. Commission recommended approval to City Council by a vote of 6-0-1.

Mr. Nester reviewed the memorandum dated March 15, 2002. The proposed expansion of the boundaries of the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area CW zoning district totaling 128 acres and is the largest expansion since 1947. Currently CW district equals 173 acres. The four areas proposed for the rezoning, which would provide greater restrictions on the use of the properties, are all supported by the goals of Comprehensive Plan.

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Scott Spence, Ed Chappell, and John Raup, representing Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, were present to respond to any questions/comments.

Chairman Davis opened the public hearing.

Ed Chappell, Director of Architectural Research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, said that as early as 1926-27 the effort has been restoration of a town, not distinctly different buildings. He noted that the statement of intent for the CW Zoning district is to "...preserve, protect and maintain the unique character and historic importance of the Colonial Williamsburg historic area." Mr. Chappell added that the areas proposed for rezoning virtually look like they are already in the historic area and that he has been encouraging this move for about twelve years. In conclusion he stated that in the long term, preservation of the core of the 18th century town is the conscientious choice.

Karen Shumaker, Executive Director of the Virginia Conservancy stated that she commends Colonial Williamsburg and their efforts to preserve this historic, scenic, natural project.

There being no other comments the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Friend, who lives in one of the areas, stated that he has talked with City Attorney Joe Phillips who assures him he does not have a conflict of interest since he shares a general interest in the ownership of the adjacent property. He added that he compliments the present leadership at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for moving forward with this expansion plan.

The consensus of the Commission was that the Foundation is to be commended for protecting the areas from the future. Mrs. Davis added that she feels grateful to have the green space and that it is our duty to protect it as well as we can.

Mr. Scruggs moved that Planning Commission recommend to City Council that approximately 128 acres be rezoned to Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area CW. This would delete the written description of the Historic Area boundaries, which is not needed because the district is adequately delineated on the Official Zoning Map.

Mr. Friend seconded the motion which carried by roll call vote of 6-0-1.

Recorded vote on the motion:

Aye:	Smith, Young, Davis, Scruggs, Hertzler, Friend
No:	None
Abstain:	Freiling
Absent:	None

OPEN FORUM

Chairman Davis opened the Open Forum portion of the meeting encouraging comments from the audience on any topic.

There being no comment the Open Forum portion of the meeting was closed.

SITE PLANS AND SUBDIVISIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

OTHER - None

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report from City Council was received.
Planning Department Monthly Report was received.
Monthly Financial Statement was received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 17

PCR #04-02: Amendment of the 1998 Comprehensive Plan by revising the Richmond Road Planning Area, the Transportation chapter, and the Future Land Use Map, by the addition of a new street connecting Richmond Road and the proposed Treyburn Drive.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Marguerite Davis, Chairman
Williamsburg Planning Commission